

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 09203 291812Z  
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W  
-----291814Z 030373 /42

R 291807Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1141

S E C R E T PARIS 09203

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MNUC PFOR FR US  
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL NUCLEAR POLICY STATEMENT

REF: STATE 067973

SUMMARY: IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL, I BRIEFED FONMIN DE GUIRINGAUD, AT HIS EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY, TUESDAY MORNING, MARCH 29, AND LEFT WITH HIM THE NON-PAPER. HIS PERSONAL REACTION, WHICH IN MY VIEW DISPLAYED SOME FORETHOUGHT, WAS TO UNDERScore FIRMLY THE FIRST SENTENCE OF THE FIRST PARAGRAPH OF THE TEXT, I.E. "MINDFUL OF...THE DESIRE OF INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES TO GAIN A SECURE SOURCE OF ENERGY SUPPLY." HE ENCOURAGED THE INSERTION OF AN ADDITIONAL SENTENCE IN THE TEXT AT THE END OF THE FIRST SENTENCE WHICH WOULD STRESS THAT THE US IS CONSCIOUS OF THE FACT THAT TO SOME COUNTRIES (I.E. FRANCE) NUCLEAR ENERGY IS A VITAL NECESSITY. HIS OTHER COMMENTS DWELT ON THE POINT THAT THE US POLICY STATEMENT, WHEN PUBLICLY PRESENTED, SHOULD BE CLEAR THAT IT IS NOT AGAINST NUCLEAR ENERGY (E.G.: VIA LIGHT-WATER REACTORS). I ALSO TOOK OCCASION OF A MEETING WITH ELYSEE SYG FRANCOIS-PONCET ON OTHER SUBJECTS TO LEAVE COPY OF THE NON-PAPER WITH HIM, IN VIEW OF GISCARD'S INTENSE PERSONAL INTEREST

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IN NUCLEAR ENERGY QUESTION. END SUMMARY.

1. GUIRINGAUD LISTENED CAREFULLY TO PRESENTATION OF US POSITION CONTAINED IN REFTEL. FONMIN BRIEFLY AND CAREFULLY EXPLAINED THAT FRANCE, HAVING NO OTHER ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF ENERGY (E.G. OIL, COAL) HAD TO RELY ON NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR ITS FUTURE ENERGY NEEDS.

IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE STRENGTH OF EUROPE, HE SAID, THAT FRANCE BE INDEPENDENT IN ENERGY MATTERS AND NOT SUBJECT TO "BLACKMAIL" FROM ARAB OR EASTERN SOURCES OF OIL. FRANCE IS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROLIFERATION CHARACTER OF PLUTONIUM AND HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM AND IS STUDYING ALTERNATIVE NUCLEAR CYCLES. MINISTER SAID HE WOULD NEITHER EXCLUDE NOR GUARANTEE A HARMONIZATION OF US AND FRENCH VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT.

2. THE US PRESIDENT'S NUCLEAR POLICY STATEMENT IS A SERIOUS AND MOST IMPORTANT MATTER TO FRANCE, THE MINISTER NOTED; WE ARE CERTAIN TO RECEIVE FRENCH COMMENTS. HE APPRECIATED THE US SOLICITATION OF FRENCH VIEWS PRIOR TO PUBLIC RELEASE. HIS FINAL REMARKS FOCUSED ON THE REQUEST THAT THE US STATEMENT BE PRESENTED IN A MANNER WHICH WOULD MAKE IT CLEAR NEW US DOMESTIC POLICY IS NOT RPT NOT A MOVE AGAINST NUCLEAR ENERGY -- THE PEACEFUL, NON-SENSITIVE ASPECTS -- AS THIS WOULD ONLY ADD MORE PROBLEMS TO THE EFFORTS OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT AND OTHERS TO MEET PUBLIC ENERGY NEEDS WITH LIGHT WATER NUCLEAR REACTORS.

3. COMMENT: THANKS TO CONTINUOUS, CLOSE US-FRENCH DISCUSSIONS ON NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION, THERE WERE NO "SURPRISES" IN THE REFTEL TEXT FOR THE FRENCH. GUIRINGAUD'S COMMENTS REFLECT A GENUINE FRENCH RESPECT FOR US VIEWS ON THE APPROACH TO PROLIFERATION CONTROL AND A WILLINGNESS TO WORK WITH US ON STUDYING  
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ALTERNATIVE FUEL CYCLES. WE BELIEVE THE FRENCH PREFER FIRST TO UNDERSTAND THE US APPROACH TO SUCH A STUDY OR EVALUATION PROGRAM BEFORE AGREEING TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE EFFORT.

4. WE EXPECT THE FRENCH WILL PROVIDE THEIR REACTIONS AND QUESTIONS BY APRIL 1 THROUGH THIS EMBASSY AND TO JOSEPH NYE AND OTHERS DURING THEIR SCHEDULED MARCH 31 VISIT TO PARIS, OF WHICH GUIRINGAUD IS FULLY AWARE.  
GAMMON

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NNN



## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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